

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 0009 as follows:

[0009] The present invention pertains to a device for removing particulates, acids, heavy metals, and other contaminants from production sources such as internal combustion engines, boilers, incinerators, pyrolysis systems or waste gasifiers, dryers, paint booths, or other such sources of air pollution. For example, the present invention may assist in reducing the emission of nitrous oxides from waste gasification systems, such as that described in U.S. Pat. App. Nos. 10/632,043 and 10/882,133 U.S. Patent Publication Nos. US 2004/00314124 A1 and US 2005/0115478 A!, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The invention is especially useful for cleaning exhaust gases that require compliance with EPA criteria limits for particulate (dust), SO₂, and HCl (acid) emissions. More particularly, the present invention relates a columnar vessel apparatus in which exhaust gases are bubbled through either a fresh water or a brine/calcium carbonate/caustic soda or other neutralizing agent(s) solution, (hereinafter referred to as “the solution”), to remove contaminants that are entrained within the exhaust gases, and which may also cool the temperature of the exhaust gases, thereby reducing the final exhaust gas volume.